

files to the virtual file system of the second adaptive load balancer so that client requests can be served by both adaptive load balancers. This allows a data, file or service serving system using adaptive load balancers of this invention to automatically adapt to changing network conditions. The results result is the ability to efficiently and automatically respond to changes in demands for access to data, files or services without significant human intervention (e.g., without having to manually replicate and then de-replicate copies of files as access demands increase, and then decrease).

In the paragraph starting on p. 13, l. 31

To provide the aggregation of the server file systems ~~155~~ 175 into a single virtual file system 135, the adaptive transaction processor 131 maintains metadata 132 that includes information for mapping or translating the client data access transactions 115 and associated data access operations 117, such as NFS file access requests, into server data access transactions 145. The metadata 132, as will be explained in more detail, contains virtual data system to server data system parameter mapping information. As an example, in embodiments that provide a virtual file system 135, the metadata 132 provides a mapping of virtual file (and directory) handle parameters, specified within an NFS or CIFS file access operation 117 (contained within a client file access transaction 115) received from a client computer system 120, to corresponding server file system file (or directory) handle parameters of a file or directory within a particular server file system 175. The metadata 132 further allows identification or selection of a particular server computer system 170 to which the adaptive transaction processor 131 forwards a resulting mapped server access operation 147 within a server file access transaction 145.

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In the paragraph starting on p. 14, l. ¹³~~16~~

Within the adaptive load balancer 130, the adaptive transaction processor 131 operates one or more appropriate data (i.e., file) access protocols such as NFS and/or CIFS to communicate with each of the server computer systems 170 to access to the respective server data systems ~~155~~ 175 (i.e., server file systems in this example embodiment). Likewise, the adaptive transaction processor 131 can receive a server transaction response 148 (e.g., an NFS response) from the server computer system 170 (to which the server data access